

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A rotary trimmer comprising:
one or more cutting blades;
a blade carriage for carrying said one or more cutting blades; and
a rail having one or more guide grooves and being operatively connected to a cutting board, said rail having a biasing element in at least one of said one or more guide grooves,
wherein said blade carriage is operatively connected to said rail by said one or more guide grooves, and
wherein said biasing element is connected to said blade carriage so that a force on said blade carriage influences the position of said one or more cutting blades with respect to said cutting board.
2. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, further comprising a blade guard for protecting an operator from direct exposure to said one or more cutting blades.
3. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 2, wherein said blade guard has one or more fasteners for connecting said blade guard to said blade carriage.
4. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 3, wherein said one or more fasteners detachable connect said blade guard to said blade carriage.
5. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 3, wherein said blade guard and said one or more cutting blades are connected so that said blade guard can be used to safely remove and replace said one or more cutting blades with respect to said blade carriage.

6. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 5, wherein said cutting board has one or more storage compartments for storing one or more of said integral blade-guard assemblies.
7. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 2, wherein said blade guard and said one or more cutting blades are connected to form an integral blade-guard assembly.
8. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said biasing element is an elongated beam with one or more flexible arms connected thereto.
9. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 8, wherein said one or more flexible arms are integral to said biasing element.
10. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein each of said one or more cutting blades has a cutting edge with a predefined cutting profile, a planar side portion with one or more apertures therein, and a transition portion between said profiled cutting edge and said planar side portion, said profiled cutting edge being equally extensive with respect to said planar side portion.
11. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said blade carriage is pivotally connected to said rail.
12. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 11, wherein said rail is extruded.
13. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said blade carriage slides along said rail.

14. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said rail is pivotally connected to said cutting board about a single pivot point.

15. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said rail is pivotally connected to said cutting board by two aligned pivot points.

16. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said cutting board has one or more storage compartments for storing said one or more cutting blades.

17. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said cutting board has interchangeable cutting surfaces.

18. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 1, wherein said cutting board is foldable for portability and storage.

19-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A rotary trimmer comprising:

one or more cutting blades;

a blade carriage for carrying said one or more blades, said blade carriage having a connector; and

a rail having one or more guide grooves, said rails being operatively connected to a cutting board,

wherein said connector enables said blade carriage to be selectively and operatively connected to said rail via one or more guide grooves, and wherein said blade carriage enables a user to effectively manipulate or guide said one or more cutting blades along any of a variety of different cut patterns.

31. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 30, wherein said connector has one or more tabs for engagement with said one or more guide grooves.

32. (Withdrawn) The rotary trimmer of Claim 31, wherein said connector has one or more elements to selectively secure said blade carriage to one or more matching fastening elements of said hand-held too.

33-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A blade-guard assembly for use in a rotary trimmer comprising:

a cutting blade having a plurality of apertures;

a hub connected to the cutting blade via the plurality of apertures; and

a blade guard secured to the hub and forming the blade-guard assembly with said cutting blade, the blade guard covering the cutting blade such that at least a portion of the cutting blade is exposed for cutting, said blade guard, cutting blade and hub being a unitary structure so that said blade-guard assembly is removable from, and placeable on, the rotary trimmer as a unit ~~without the cutting blade being disconnected from the hub and without the hub being disconnected from the blade guard.~~

41. (Previously Presented) The blade-guard assembly of Claim 40, further comprising a central aperture disposed in a central region of the cutting blade; and wherein the plurality of apertures are disposed about the central aperture.

42. (Previously Presented) The blade-guard assembly of Claim 41 wherein the plurality of apertures are disposed angularly around and are smaller than the central aperture.

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43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The blade-guard assembly of Claim 40 wherein the hub and the cutting blade are integrally connected using the plurality of apertures.

45-47. (Canceled)